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SOURCE Ta Kung Pao.

REPORTS BUMPER HARVEST OF EARLY RICE
IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH CHINA REGION

The Central and South China region expected a bumper harvest of early rice. That is indicated by the 200 to 350 catties per mou (one mou is equal to 1/6 acre) of yields in some part of Kiangsi. In Hunan Province, the yields are generally 20 percent higher than those of last year.

Reports from Kwangsi show that the yield per mou is 30 to 50 catties more than last year. In Kwangtung, the early rice has reached the market and thus the fear of possible summer famine in certain areas has been averted.

Government-sponsored irrigation and flood-control programs helped to reclaim salt-water-flooded land and improved the yield of early rice in Shan-t'ou, Kwangtung. An average yield of 370 catties per mou for early rice was reported in Sui-fang Ch'u, near Canton. To achieve these results, the government has loaned a total of 5 billion yuan and conscripted many laborers to work on the irrigation projects in this ch'u.

EARLY RICE HARVEST TO BE COMPLETED SOON -- Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 20 Jul 51

The Central and South China Regional District expects a bumper harvest of early rice. The harvest, which already has started in some parts of Kiangsi, has shown yields ranging from 200 catties to 350 catties per mou. In Liu-yang, Li-ling, and other hsiens in Hunan, the yields are generally 20 percent higher than last year. By the end of July, the two provinces will complete their rice harvest. Farms in all areas of these regions are organizing protection units to guard the summer harvest.

Kwangtung and Kwangsi started their early rice harvest during mid-June. Pin-yang and other hsiens in Kwangsi have reported yields of 30 to 50 catties more per mou than last year. In Kwangtung, the early rice crop has reached the market; thus, the expected summer famine in certain parts of the province has been averted.

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In Shantung, Kwangtung, the early rice yields ranged from 3.5 to 8.5 shih [one shih equals 103.5 liters/ per mou]. Salt water flooded the Lien Hsiang area last year and reduced the yield of the winter crop considerably. To reclaim the land, the government constructed a channel early this year to allow fresh water to flow in. The first harvest after the completion of the channel was 5.6 shih per mou. To improve agricultural production for the hsiang, the government in the winter of 1950 mobilized 800,000 laborers to improve the irrigation and flood-control measures. They have constructed six reservoirs, dug 241 irrigation ditches, and repaired 348. Dikes at 69 points were also reinforced. These measures help to irrigate 93,410 mou of water-deficient land and reclaim 36,241 mou which have had poor drainage.

RICE YIELD IN SHI FANG CH'U NEAR CANTON INCREASES ... Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 23 Jul 51

Shi Fang Ch'u, near Canton, has had the best rice harvest in 20 years. Incomplete reports show that the 3,000 mou of paddy rice fields yielded an average of 350 catties per mou, as compared to 100 catties per mou in 1950. The 11,000 mou of dike protected fields along the river yielded an average of 370 catties, as compared to 270 catties per mou in 1950. This year, the district as a whole shows a 50 percent increase in crop production. Such good showings are the results of successful land reform and counterrevolutionary suppression programs.

Irrigation and water conservancy projects were carried out last winter and this spring. The government has loaned 2.2 billion yuan in currency and 2.8 billion yuan worth of food and commodities for the projects in the area. Also, 21.1 kilometers of drainage ditches, five water control locks, and 30 weirs were constructed or repaired. These works will benefit over 15,000 mou of land. This year's flood-prevention program made possible the good harvest, but credit must also be given to the farmers for their meticulous care of the land and to the government for loaning large quantities of fertilizer.

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